(a) whether it is a fact that the purchase of Kharif crop-paddy has been completed by Government;

(b) if so, the total quantity of paddy purchased at the end of October, 2009;

(c) the quantity of paddy purchased in comparison to October, 2008; and

(d) the total stock of paddy in the country at the end of October, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In KMS 2009-10 the total quantity of paddy procured by FCI and State Agencies as on 31st October, 2009 was 129.49 lakh MT. Procurement in corresponding period in 2008-09 was 124.89 lakh tonnes.

(d) The total stock of rice in the Central Pool as on 31st October, 2009 was 216.21 lakh MT.

**Availability of rice at Rs. 2 per kg. to APL and BPL categories**

961. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been demands from various quarters, including political parties, for providing rice at Rs. 2 per kg. irrespective of families belonging to APL or BPL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that food security proposed by Government could be ensured only if rice is made available for Rs. 2 per kg. through PDS;

(c) if so, the steps his Ministry would take in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is a difference between the list of BPL families at the Centre and States; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) At present, allocation of foodgrains to States/Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. This number of BPL families is based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission for 1993-94 projected on population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. As against this, by October, 2009, BPL ration cards issued by States/UTs is 10.96 crore. The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by them is due to improper targeting of the poor households, which has inclusion as well as exclusion errors.

For distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible BPL, AAY and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration card holders, subsidized Central Issue Prices (CIP) communicated by Central Government are as follows:—

| | AAY | BPL | APL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rice (Rs./Kg.) | 3.00 | 5.65 | 8.30 |
| Wheat (Rs./Kg.) | 2.00 | 4.15 | 6.10 |

Some of the States/Union Territories are, however, charging lower issue prices by further subsidizing the issue prices.

As announced in the address of Hon'ble President of India to joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009, Government proposes to enact a National Food Security Act, under which every BPL family will be entitled to 25 kg rice/wheat per month at Rs. 3 per kg.

**Stock of rice and wheat in FCI for PDS**

962. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has sufficient stock of rice and wheat for regular supply through Public Distribution System in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of stocks in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Stocks of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool as on 31.10.2009 were 216.21 lakh tons of rice and 268.88 lakh tons of wheat. State-wise details of stocks are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

The present stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool are adequate to meet requirement of existing levels of allocations to States and UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of total stocks of Foodgrains in Central Pool as on* 31.10.2009

*(In lakh tons)*

| State | Total Central Pool Stocks | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rice | Wheat | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Bihar | 2.35 | 1.80 | 4.15 |
| Jharkhand | 0.63 | 0.41 | 1.04 |
| Orissa | 6.43 | 0.37 | 6.80 |
| West Bengal | 6.61 | 3.22 | 9.83 |
| EAST ZONE TOTAL: | 16.02 | 5.80 | 21.82 |